

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 /085 W
-----116362 011650Z /43

R 011533Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5416
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV GASTARBEITER (GUEST WORKERS) IN THE
FRG

REF: (A) BONN 01700; (B) BONN 01133; (C) BONN A-09;

(D) BONN 00647; (E) BONN 00509

SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV POPULATION IN THE FRG IS STABILIZING. MAJOR CONCERNS ARE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FAMILIES HERE AND IN YUGOSLAVIA. YUGOSLAV EXPERIENCE REMAINS SIMILAR TO EXPERIENCE OF OTHER GASTARBEITER FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOFF DISCUSSED YUGOSLAV GASTARBEITER WITH MILOVAN SUBOTIC, COUNSELOR FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN BONN. THERE HAS BEEN A SLOW DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF YUGOSLAVS IN THE FRG SINCE 1973, BUT THE OVERALL YUGOSLAV POPULATION IN THE FRG IS NOW STABILIZING AT 630,000. IN MARCH 1977, WORKERS NUMBERED 375,000 WITH THE BALANCE OF THE 630,000 FAMILY DEPENDENTS. THE NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV WORKERS IN THE FRG PEAKED AT 535,000 IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND DROPPED TO 434,000 BY THE END OF 1974. THIS NUMBER CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN 1975 AND 1976 AND HAS STABILIZED AT THE CURRENT LEVEL. THE MAJORITY OF YUGOSLAVS RESIDENT IN THE FRG HAVE BEEN HERE FOR SIX YEARS OR LONGER.

2. THE PERCENTAGE OF DEPENDENTS IN THE OVERALL YUGOSLAV POPULATION HAS INCREASED (PARA 2, REF E) AND THIS HAS LED TO EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS SINCE THERE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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130,000 YUGOSLAV CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 HERE. THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO DO NOT RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATE FROM THE BASIC SCHOOL (PARA 6, REF E) IS OVER SIXTY PERCENT. THERE ARE 250 YUGOSLAV TEACHERS HERE WHO GIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL INSTRUCTION (PARA 4, REF A; PARA 2, REF D; PARA 7, REF E). MORE TEACHERS ARE WANTED, BUT BUDGETARY PROBLEMS PREVENT ANY INCREASES. PART OF THE INTEREST THAT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS IN THIS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IS THE MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL FEELING IN THIS SECOND GENERATION SO THAT THIS LARGE YUGOSLAV POPULATION IN THE FRG WILL BE DISPOSED TO SUPPORT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT'S LINE

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ON MANY ISSUES IN THE FUTURE (PARA 4, REF B).

3. THERE HAVE BEEN APPROXIMATELY 3,000 BINATIONAL
MARRIAGES PER YEAR WITHIN THE PAST FEW YEARS. SIXTEEN
THOUSAND YUGOSLAV CHILDREN ARE BORN EVERY YEAR IN THE
FRG. THERE ARE FEW PROBLEMS IN THE 12,000 CASES WHERE

BOTH PARENTS ARE YUGOSLAV, BUT PROBLEMS ARISE IN THE REMAINDER OF THE CASES BECAUSE THE CHILD HAS DUAL CITIZENSHIP. SUBOTIC NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT GROUP WAS THE 1,100 ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN BORN PER YEAR (HE DID NOT HAVE FIGURES ON THE CITIZENSHIP OF THESE PARENTS). SUBOTIC STATED THAT THE BIRTHS WERE ONE HALF OF THE "YOUNG AND OLD PROBLEM" THAT HE IS EXPERIENCING. THE OTHER HALF IS THE INCREASE IN YUGOSLAVS OVER 65 YEARS OLD (PARA 2, REF A).

4. SUBOTIC IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH FRG OFFICIALS TO SMOOTH PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES THAT OCCUR WHEN DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS IN YUGOSLAVIA APPLY FOR FRG HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS THEY ARE ENTITLED TO. THERE ARE 15,000 YUGOSLAVS CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED IN THE FRG AND THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THEY DO NOT ALWAYS RECEIVE THEIR FULL BENEFITS DUE TO LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES AND LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICATION PROCEDURES. BY AND LARGE, HOWEVER, THE STABILIZATION OF THE POPULATION HAS REDUCED THE NUMBER OF WORK-RELATED PROBLEMS -- WAGES, CONDITIONS, ETC. THE YUGOSLAVS CONTINUE TO PRESS THE FRG FOR CONCRETE TALKS ON JOB CREATION IN YUGOSLAVIA SO THAT THE GASTARBEITER COULD RETURN HOME, BUT SUBOTIC WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ANY DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS.

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5. EMBASSY COMMENT: YUGOSLAVIA'S POSITION AS THE ONLY SOCIALIST COUNTRY SUPPLYING LABOR TO THE FRG HAS NOT MADE ANY NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE IN THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY ITS CITIZENS WORKING HERE. WHAT IS MOST STRIKING IS THE SIMILARITY AMONG THE GASTARBEITER (REFS).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN01942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0451
Format: TEL
From: BONN USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802108/aaaadniu.tel
Line Count: 209
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 157a08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 1700, 78 BONN 1133, 78 BONN A-9, 78 BONN 647, 78 BONN 509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3447430
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV GASTARBEITER (GUEST WORKERS) IN THE FRG
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/157a08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014